

Ask Marsha to pick time to discuss this

Ferguson, Cynthia (ENRD)

From: Marshall, Sunaree K <Sunaree.K.Marshall@hud.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2016 6:04 PM
To: Ferguson, Cynthia (ENRD); Howard, Sandra (OS/OASH)
Cc: Neal, Daria (CRT); Minter, Marsha
Subject: RE: EJ IWG June 30th Principals mtg - draft Agenda & questions for Principals dialogue - LOOKING FOR YOUR FEEDBACK PLS.

Hi all,

Bear with as I am in my usual candid mood. Here are some collective thoughts from the HUD team:

- **First off – the downer message** – a bad outcome for this meeting, from my perspective, would be if every agency just got together to toot their own horn and say what a great job they all did on EJ, without ever having a real dialogue.
- **Time:** I definitely agree that you need to limit the length of the agency 'panel.' I would recommend that you vet the presentations done by staff ahead of time for length so that you can adhere to the timeline in the agenda. Also assign an unforgiving time monitor in the meeting.
- **Takeaways from agency presentations (Jim says we should call them briefings, btw):** I'm also curious about the overall message you are trying to have the other offices take away from the agency presentations. If done well, the agency presentations should further inspire the conversation that follows. It is difficult to weigh in without knowing the details of what is to be covered in the various agency presentations.
- **Balance:** Folks here noted that the agency presentations feel very Civil Rights focused. As we have discussed often, EJ work is a balance of (1) identifying and mitigating harms/ enforcing the laws that requires that, (2) expanding access to benefits (e.g. equitable development, equitable climate adaptation, jobs efforts, etc.), and (3) prioritizing meaningful involvement in decision-making. Right now, two of the presentations appear to cover (1), and I'm not sure about the DOE presentation, but I assuming it will cover the conference, university engagement and CLI?
 - You should consider discussing other 'benefits' topics like equitable development, neighborhood revitalization, climate resilience, etc. to improve this balance.
- **Principal's discussion:** I think you need to reset the agency expectations right away that this is another 'report out' opportunity for them to highlight their accomplishments and ensure that agency reps are crafting their memos to encourage their Principals to attend in order to instead provide feedback to EPA (as the convener of the IWG) on
 - (1) the lessons learned on EJ work under this Administration
 - (2) each agency's thoughts on what big challenges/opportunities remain for the next Administration under the EJ umbrella, and
 - (3) what is the best way to communicate this during the transition period (this is the questions you have right now). Actually, some of the questions you have now on timing and logistics are things you can assign as follow-up to the Senior representatives.
- Here's why I say the above point – I don't think most agencies really have EJ programs. Certainly HUD does not, and I don't believe the DOL or ED do either. I'd be curious to see if DOI really frames their work as an "EJ program" either? Perhaps in fish & wildlife? However, we all work on things that move us toward achieving EJ OUTCOMES. I personally don't believe that the only way to achieve these outcomes is to stand up a specific program labeled 'EJ.' To that point, the EJ IWG is only useful to the next Administration in so far as it has a cleared defined set of challenges and opportunities that it is trying to tackle under the EJ umbrella.
- To those points, to me, the compelling message to the next Administration is a clear articulation of the problem we are trying to solve, what lessons we've learned along the way, the challenges and opportunities remaining,

[LOOK AT NOW IS THE TIME]

mean

and the highlighting of the existing infrastructure (the EO, EJ IWG and the EJ strategies) that are tools that could help to achieve positive outcomes.

- Given everything I've said above, I would recommend revisiting the agenda, including the proposed agency briefing, to see if they can inform a dialogue between the Principals with all of that in mind. What you want is for every message, from Mustafa's to Gina's to Vernice's to the agencies' to march the group along a path to discussing what to pass on to the next team.

Hope this helps and happy to jump on the phone Friday to discuss further.

S

From: Ferguson, Cynthia (ENRD) [mailto:Cynthia.Ferguson@usdoj.gov]

Sent: Friday, May 27, 2016 2:31 PM

To: Marshall, Sunaree K <Sunaree.K.Marshall@hud.gov>; Howard, Sandra (OS/OASH) <Sandra.Howard@HHS.GOV>

Cc: Neal, Daria (CRT) <Daria.Neal@usdoj.gov>; Minter, Marsha <Minter.Marsha@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: EJ IWG June 30th Principals mtg - draft Agenda & questions for Principals dialogue - LOOKING FOR YOUR FEEDBACK PLS.

If you are able to give us some feedback by next Wednesday, June 1st that would really help.

Thank you,
Cynthia

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From: Marshall, Sunaree K [mailto:Sunaree.K.Marshall@hud.gov]

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Subject: RE: EJ IWG June 30th Principals mtg - draft Agenda & questions for Principals dialogue - LOOKING FOR YOUR FEEDBACK PLS.

Thanks! When do you need feedback by?

From: Ferguson, Cynthia (ENRD) [mailto:Cynthia.Ferguson@usdoj.gov]

Sent: Friday, May 27, 2016 12:47 PM

To: Marshall, Sunaree K <Sunaree.K.Marshall@hud.gov>; Howard, Sandra (OS/OASH) <Sandra.Howard@HHS.GOV>

Cc: Neal, Daria (CRT) <Daria.Neal@usdoj.gov>; Minter, Marsha <Minter.Marsha@epa.gov>

Subject: EJ IWG June 30th Principals mtg - draft Agenda & questions for Principals dialogue - LOOKING FOR YOUR FEEDBACK PLS.

Hi Sunaree and Sandy,

Marsha and I wanted the benefit of your wisdom on the draft Agenda for the June 30th Principals meeting. ☺ I have attached it here: . We already know we need to revise it. You will see from the draft that the bulk of the meeting looks like a long panel discussion with 3 agencies "presenting" (10:40am- 11:40am) and other agencies only being encouraged to participate. I think we need to revise it to clearly show that the 3 agencies will only speak for a few minutes each (7 mins max I think) and then the floor will open for all Agency Principals to discuss 2 -3 main questions, which we should also put on the agenda. The presentations are designed to get Principals thinking about the elements that make for successful, sustainable Agencies EJ efforts that align with the EJ IWG.

Here's what the draft agenda shows . . .

Opportunities to Strengthen Your EJ Program and the EJ IWG

This panel will discuss successful approaches for building and sustaining an Environmental Justice program and how those activities have been aligned with the EJ IWG.

1. **Building a Strong EJ Program: GSA** [Madeline Caliendo, the Associate Administrator for Civil Rights]
Effect
2. **Collaborating for a Strong EJ Program** [speaker will be DOJ's Civil Rights Division rep. discussing importance of Agency OCR's/Title VI and collaboration]
strategy
3. **Sustaining a Strong EJ Program: DOE** [David Klaus, the Deputy Under Secretary for Management and Performance -- responsibilities include oversight of the Office of Environmental Management and the Office of Legacy Management]

- **Moving through Transition [perspectives on DOE and EJ IWG from previous transition; lessons learned(?)]**

So after the brief presentations we want to pose questions for the Principals to discuss.

We want to continue to move forward, building on the momentum that we (as individual Agencies and collectively as the EJ IWG) have gained over the last 8 years to advance environmental justice. As we enter this season of transition planning, what questions should we be asking in this meeting to help order our next steps? Here are some thoughts we had:

1. **Advancing EJ IWG efforts – transition document/language**

- What information would you find most valuable to include in a short EJ IWG transition document designed to help Agencies incorporate/include [continued support of] the EJ IWG in their transition planning?
- How soon would we need to get the EJ IWG transition document to you to be of use? [What would be the optimal timing for you to receive the EJ IWG transition document?]
- What else do you think is needed to sustain our collective momentum as the EJ IWG? What would you like to see from the EJ IWG to facilitate a successful transition?

I think it is important for us to get, and for Principals to hear, perspectives of the various Agencies on this because they all bring different things to the EJ table and have unique challenges.

2. **Advancing Agency EJ efforts**

- What [other] steps should the EJ IWG take to help Agencies in their efforts to ensure they have strong EJ programs before, during and after the transition? [NOT SURE WANT TO USE "EJ programs" LANGUAGE HERE]

NEPA document is one example of what EJ IWG has done; establishing Regional IWGs is another.

So those are the ideas we have right now. Marsha may wish to add some additional thoughts. As I said, we would really like your feedback please on framing an appropriate Principal-level discussion for this meeting. Any advice you have would be most appreciated.

Thanks! Have a fabulous holiday weekend.

Cynthia

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